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COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)
TOPIC General Military Information

REPORT NO.

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EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

18 to 26 May 1952

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DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

16 June 1952

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REFERENCES

PAGES 1

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 22 May 1952, signal communications construction details wearing black-bordered black epaulets were observed engaged in telephone operations practices at the Bad Koesen (M 52/J 78) engineer training area. Pontoons were stored on the bank of the river. No bridge construction was observed. Truck [] loaded with tent poles was identified in Bad Koesen. *

2. During the period from 18 to 26 May, the Flak Kaserne on Geusaerstrasse, Merseburg (M 52/D 91), was only lightly occupied. Local residents said that the installation would be evacuated for so-called national forces. A Soviet komendatura was said to be established in Merseburg. **

3. At 3 p.m. on 18 May, three troop trains carrying a total of about 150 new trucks [] guarded by about 30 sentries wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia stood at the Altenburg (N 51/T 27) railroad station.

* [] Comment. Probably a signal communication unit of the engineer battalions which at present practice in Bad Koesen. The motor vehicle belongs to the unidentified engineer battalion of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps in Naumburg. According to unconfirmed information by source of the present report and other sources, units believed stationed in Bad Koesen in May 1952 included: the 19th Irdep Gds Engr Bn (?) of the Eighth Gds Army, the 67th Engr Bn (US) of the 57th Gds Mtz Rifle Div and the unidentified engineer battalion of the 21st Gds Mecz Div.

** [] Comment. The AT artillery brigade of the XXIX Gds Mtz Rifle Corps stationed there was transferred to the Kindel troop training grounds on 19 and 20 April 1952. See []. There is no other information indicating that the Flak Kaserne has been completely evacuated by Soviet troops. An SCC headquarters was reportedly stationed in the building of the former Landesversicherungsanstalt until August 1950. There has been no information stating that the headquarters was dissolved. Reports concerning the establishment of komendaturas in various places in the Soviet Zone of Germany have been received since May 1952.

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